

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 34-35 and 38-41. Please amend claim 61. Please add new claims 64-69. The claims are as follows:

1- 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code configured to:

obtain a first business process data from at least one first trading participant, said first business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a first data format in accordance with a first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant;

process said first business process data at a process management platform accessible via an interconnection fabric, wherein said process management platform is configured to manage the flow of said transaction messages and monitor said transaction messages, wherein said process management platform is configured to automatically determine at least one of a plurality of second trading participants to satisfy said first business process data;

identify a second protocol for conducting said business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants;

generate a second business process data from said first business process data, the second business process data comprising a set of transaction messages having a data format in accordance with said identified second protocol; and

transmit said second business process data from said process management platform to said at least one of said plurality of second trading participants such that said first and second trading participants conduct said business transactions in accordance with their respective protocols for conducting business transactions, wherein said process management platform is configured to process at least one proprietary transaction definition format.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said process gateway interfaces with at least one legacy system of one or both of said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of said plurality of second trading participants.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said process management platform broadcasts said first business process data to said plurality of second trading participants, said process management platform being further configured to utilize at least one open protocol that defines a business process.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to modify said first business process data to conform said first business process data to a uniform format.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said processing further comprises:

archiving said first business process data in a storage medium.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 31 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide said archived first business process data to an entity for non-repudiation purposes.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said first business process data comprises at least one partner interface process.

34-35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said at least one first trading participant comprises an entity utilizing said first business process data.

38-41. (Canceled)

42. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a plurality of distributed systems.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a business process interface associated with said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second participants.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:
computer readable program code configured to provide said at least one first trading participant and said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants access to a business process interface.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface is provided via a web browser.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the transmission of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 44 wherein said business process interface facilitates the formatting of data comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

48 - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code for managing a plurality of business processes, said computer readable program code configured to:

obtain a plurality of business processes from a plurality of first entities wherein said plurality of business processes comprises a sequence of messages linked by a predefined workflow and exchanged over a predefined period of time;

manage said plurality of business processes at a process management platform; and

forward said plurality of business processes from said process management platform to at least one of a plurality of second entities automatically configured to fulfill said plurality of business processes, said process management platform being configured to process at least one proprietary transaction definition format.

52 - 60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said computer readable program code configured to identify said second protocol for conducting business

transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants further comprises computer readable program code configured to determine whether said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants is other than said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is other than said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 61, wherein said first protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one first trading participant is said second protocol for conducting business transactions used by said at least one of a plurality of second trading participants.

64. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the second protocol differs from the first protocol, wherein the transaction messages comprise an unencrypted header and encrypted payload data compatible with the first data format, and wherein the computer readable program code is configured to decrypt the encrypted payload data and subsequently re-encrypt the decrypted payload data according to the data format in accordance with said identified second protocol.

65. (New) The computer program product of claim 64, wherein the computer readable program code is configured to:

determine that information in the header is compatible with the at least one of the plurality of second trading partners;

modify the header, including strip unneeded information from the header and alter content of the header; and

digitally sign the modified header.

66. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein the computer readable program code is configured to:

receive acknowledgment of receipt of the second business process data by the at least one of said plurality of second trading participants; and

transmit the received acknowledgment to the first trading participant.

67. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said computer readable program code configured to apply logic to the first business process data to perform a service for the first trading participant, said service including generating the second business process data as differing from the first business process data.

68. (New) The computer program product of claim 67,

wherein the at least one of said plurality of second trading participants comprises at least two second trading participants of said plurality of second trading participants;

wherein the second business process data is an offer of a trading participation agreement between the first trading participant and a satisfactory second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants;

wherein the service is a service of negotiating said trading participation agreement between the first trading participant and said satisfactory second trading participant;

wherein said computer readable program code is configured to sequentially transmit said second business process data to each second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants and to subsequently receive a reply from each respective second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants before transmitting said second business process data to a next second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants; and

wherein upon receiving a satisfactory reply from a last second trading participant of said at least two second trading participants, said computer readable program code is configured to send confirmation to the first trading participant that said trading participation agreement has been successfully negotiated between the first trading participant and said satisfactory second trading participant, said satisfactory second trading participant consisting of said last second trading participant.

69. (New) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said computer readable program code comprises a virtual trading participant, wherein the virtual trading participant is configured to receive fictitious business process data from the first trading participant and to both acknowledge the fictitious business process data and reply to the first trading participant that the fictitious business process data has been acknowledged in order to enable the first trading

participant to determine that the first trading participant is prepared to automatically transmit the first business data to complete said business transactions.